

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of dissolving carbon nanotubes, ~~characterized in that it comprises the~~ comprising

(i) providing ~~reduction of nanotubes, which results in~~ negatively charged nanotubes with positive counterions by reducing carbon nanotubes; and

(ii) adding a polar organic solvent to the negatively charged nanotubes of step (i), resulting in a dissolved phase of negatively charged nanotubes with positive counterions in the solvent.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the counterions are alkali metal cations.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of ~~providing negatively charged nanotubes comprises adding~~ characterized in that it ~~includes the addition, under anaerobic conditions, to the nanotubes of a salt of formula:~~



to the carbon nanotubes, wherein ~~in which:~~

[[~~-~~]]A⁺ represents a cation of an alkali metal ion, ~~such as lithium or sodium;~~
and

[[~~-~~]]B⁻ represents an anion of a polyaromatic compound,
so as to electrically charge the nanotubes.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the polyaromatic compound is chosen from naphthalene,

benzophenone, fluorenone and anthraquinone.

5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~
~~characterized in that the polar organic solvent is solvents are chosen from~~ sulfolane,
~~dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethylformamide, N-methylpyrrolidone~~ ~~[[and]]or~~
N-methylformamide.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1,~~
~~wherein~~ characterized in that the carbon nanotubes contain boron atoms in place of as a
substitute for carbon atoms.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~
~~characterized in that the~~ carbon nanotubes ~~used~~ are single-walled nanotubes.

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1, characterized in~~
~~that wherein the~~ carbon nanotubes ~~used~~ are multi-walled nanotubes.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 7, wherein~~
~~characterized in that the~~ carbon nanotubes ~~used~~ are hollow empty nanotubes.

10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 7, wherein~~
~~characterized in that the~~ carbon nanotubes ~~used~~ contain molecules, for example
~~photosensitive molecules or fullerenes, salts, such as alkali metal halides, or else metal~~
~~elements~~ inside their hollow interior.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1, further~~
~~comprising~~ characterized in that it ~~further includes~~ a step of purifying the nanotubes.

12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1, further~~
~~comprising~~ characterized in that it ~~further includes~~ a step of functionalizing the surface

or the ends of the nanotubes.

Claims 13-15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A method of dissolving carbon nanotubes comprising

(i) providing reduced, negatively charged nanotubes with positive counterions by reducing carbon nanotubes; and

(ii) adding a polar organic solvent to the negatively charged nanotubes of step (i), resulting in a dissolved phase of negatively charged nanotubes with positive counterions in the solvent.